



Agriculture and Food

GIP

Grazing Improvement Program

What is GIP

Protect the Environment & Improve the Economy

How

- Rangeland Specialist to represent grazing interests
- Expand ability of grazing boards to impact federal management plans
- Increase no. of projects that protect the land and expand productivity
- Creating a process that is more reasonable, affordable and effective in addressing invasive species (NEPA).



GIP

(Grazing Improvement Program)

Key elements of GIP

1. Reorganization and authority of Utah Grazing Boards

- Staff to support and research the needs of Utah livestock industry
- Program Manager – need new funding
- Research Analyst – internal reallocation
- Rangeland Scientist – existing employee



GIP

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Key elements of GIP

2. Projects to stop destruction by invasive species and provide a healthy and productive environment.

Projects will be generated by:

- Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs)
- Grazing Boards (regional and state)
- Soil Conservation District boards (SCDs)

Program coordination:

- Utah Soil Conservation Commission
- Utah Partners for Conservation & Development Council



GIP

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Key elements of GIP

3. NEPA (national environmental policy act) process revision

- Open discussion about land management policy.
- Reasonable, affordable and effective methods of addressing invasive species and rangeland/watershed capacity issues.
- Federal agencies that are “can do” rather than “can’t do.”
- Proper management is more than no action.



Budget Proposal

Funding Example

To Fully Fund:

\$2 mil for GIP
\$200,000 for staff and board costs
\$1.8 million for projects

FY 2007 Budget Request

\$320,000 on-going to start program

Currently

	Federal	State
T/G Boards	\$100k	0
CWMA/county	\$100k	0
UGN	\$ 50k	0

GIP – project matching grant money

	Federal	State
Regional Boards	\$100k	\$400k
CWMA/county	\$100k	\$400k
GIP board / USCC	\$ 50k	\$1mil.



GIP

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Uintah Basin

South West

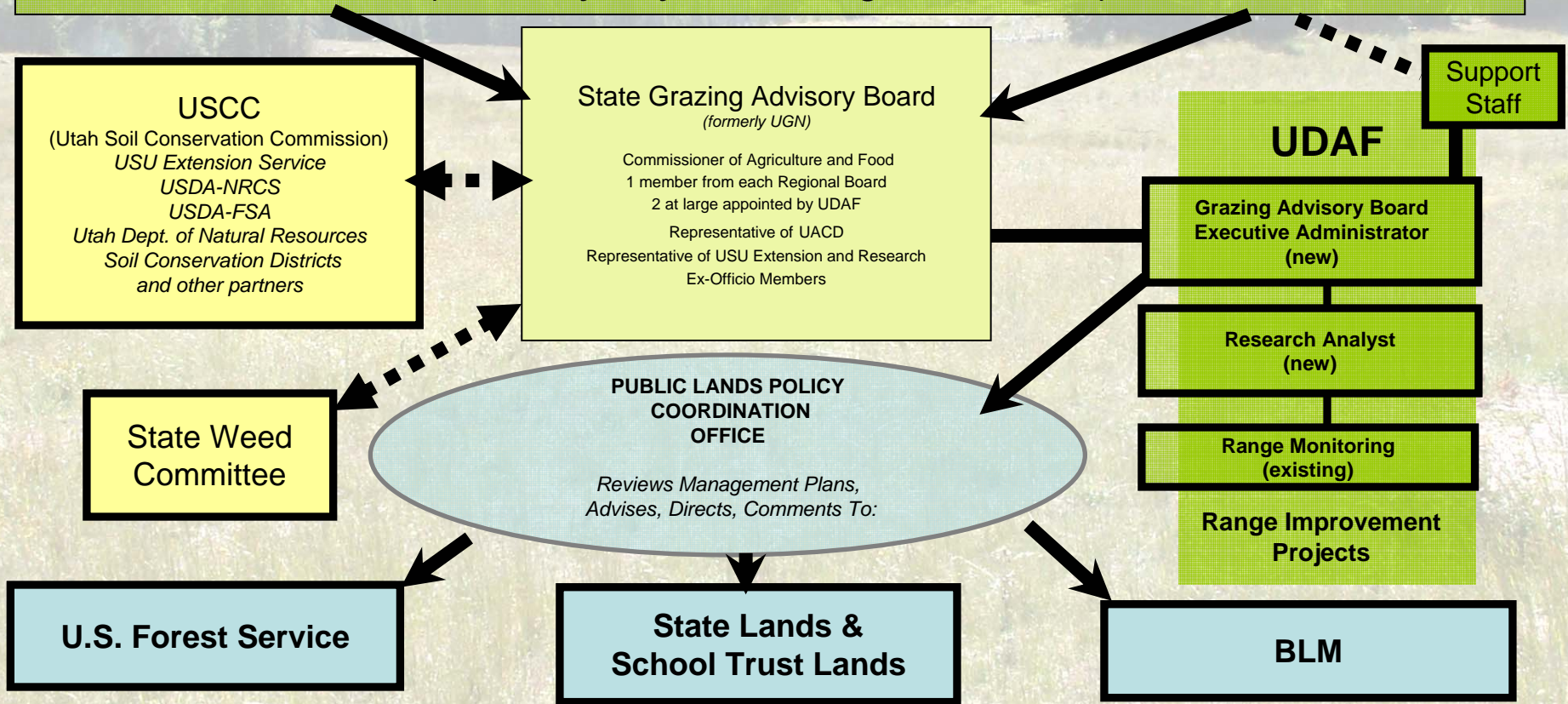
Central

South East

Northern

5 Regional Grazing Boards

(Formerly Taylor Grazing Act districts)





GIP

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Program Benefits

Increased carrying capacity – livestock and wildlife

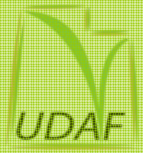
Improved water quality and quantity

Decreased fuel load to suppress wildland fires

Enhances the vitality of rural Utah economies.

**“We believe in a stewardship
obligation to our resources.”**

Leonard Blackham,
Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food



EXAMPLE

Stocking rate changes as a result of Grazing Improvement Projects

Species	1983	2001
Mother Cows	2,600	5,500
Yearling Cattle	3,000	4,000
Elk	1,500	2,400
Mule Deer	4,500*	3,500
Antelope	0	600
Moose	50	200
Bird Species	?	260
Sage Grouse	120	600